Wessex

We Offer:

- A winter programme of talks
- Social activities and visits

Welcome to the Wessex Section

The aim of the Section is to promote friendship amongst sailors living in "Wessex", whether they keep their boats on the local coast or sail further afield. We run talks and social events through the winter season, and are keen to organise outdoor activities during the summer months. If you would like to share tips, stories, and time with fellow lovers of the sea, find opportunities to learn and laugh together, or if you're just passing through, or planning to come to one of our area's beautiful harbours, please join the Section to find out how to meet other local CA members whilst you are here.

We consider "Wessex" to stretch from Hurst Narrows to West Bay and inland north to Salisbury. We are fortunate to have a beautiful coastline including the Jurassic Coast which is an UNESCO World Heritage site. The main harbours are:

- Christchurch, at the confluence of the rivers Stour and Avon, which has a quiet bustle of activity in summer with a very relaxing feel to it.
- Poole, the second largest natural harbour in the world. It is a busy commercial port with cross channel ferry services, and the home of the R.N.L.I. with its very impressive Training College. Yet it still offers peaceful anchorages as well as yacht clubs and marina facilities. From the harbour the River Frome gives access to Wareham, an ancient town settled by the Vikings and the Romans at the foot of the Purbeck Hills.
- Weymouth, a working harbour, supporting fishing and pleasure boats.
- Portland, a deep water commercial port and home of the National Sailing Academy, which hosted the 2012 Sailing Olympics and Paralympics.

There is lots to see and do whether you visit our harbours as passage ports of call or as cruise destinations. In fine weather there are beautiful anchorages at Chapman's Pool, Warbarrow Bay and Lulworth Cove. The traditional "gem" of our region Studland Bay now has a large no anchoring zone with a few eco friendly moorings.

Section Secretaries
Fiona Slay
Malcolm Denham

Contact
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Join Us!

Be part of our cruising community ashore and afloat.
Join as many CA Sections as you wish. Section membership is FREE to subscribed members. To find out more about our other Sections, visit www.theca.org.uk/sections alternatively contact us on the details provided

Activities

The Section aims to serve CA members living locally or keeping their boats in one of the harbours overleaf, as well as those cruising abroad, or just passing through. Our talks for the winter are held from October through to March and cover a wide range of nautical topics. See our archive summary of talks to get a flavour. Recommendations of speakers and topic suggestions are always welcome.

Forthcoming Events 2026/27

We plan to meet on the third Tuesday of each month from October through to April.
Please check the CA website for confirmed dates, talks and locations.

Tuesday 20 October 2026 The White-Tailed Eagles Reintroduction Project – Imogen Lloyd
Tuesday 17 November 2026 The Golden Globe – Ian Herbert-Jones
Sunday 6 December 2026 Wessex Section Festive Lunch
Tuesday 19 January 2027 Near and Far
Tuesday 16 February 2027 The Risky Role of the Pilot – Captain Barry Sadler
Tuesday 16 March 2027 Astronauts of Cape Horn – Nicolas Gray
April 2027 – date TBC – Fitting-Out Lunch

We meet at Lilliput Sailing Club, 200A Sandbanks Road, Poole, BH14 8HA.

Bar service from 1900 hrs,
Meetings begin at 1930 hrs.

All CA members, their guests and local yacht club members are welcome.
There is a nominal charge for non-CA members.

Please see the CA website for the latest event information.


Poole Harbour - Goathorn Point


River Moorings, Christchurch

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